



February 9, 2021

To: Members of the Environment Committee

Re: Testimony in support of *Raised S.B. 837 AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF PERFLUOROALKYL OR POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES IN CLASS B FIREFIGHTING FOAM*

Dear Senator Cohen, Representative Borer, Ranking Members Senator Miner, Representative Harding and distinguished members of the Environment Committee:

Thank you for all the work that you are doing for our state. I would like to submit testimony on behalf of the Pollinator Pathway NE (PP NE) in support of S.B. No. 837 AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF PERFLUOROALKYL OR POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES IN CLASS B FIREFIGHTING FOAM. The PP NE represents 68 towns in Connecticut and over 225 towns across the region, with thousands of active participants.

As you may be aware, PFAS is a group of at least 4,700 synthetic chemicals that are highly persistent and accumulate over time in humans, animals and the environment. Recent reports have shown the existence of PFAS chemicals in drinking water across the US. Here in Connecticut, tens of thousands of gallons of toxic firefighting foam was spilled into the Farmington River a couple of years ago. PFAS chemicals are associated with liver damage, thyroid disease, decreased fertility, high cholesterol, obesity, hormone suppression and liver, kidney and other cancers. Legislation that would limit our daily exposure here in Connecticut is urgently needed so that we can quickly stem their accumulation in and all around us.

S.B. No. 837 is a good start to banning the use of PFAS chemicals but we strongly argue that the use of PFAS-containing foam (AFFF) for training be banned immediately. We support a full ban of AFFF, unless required by federal law, by 2022. Fluorine-free foams exist and are known to be effective. A timely and full ban is consistent with the actions of other states, will reduce exposure to firefighters and first responders and significantly reduce toxic chemical contamination of our environment. Our hope is that eventually these 'forever' chemicals are also banned from food packaging, food service ware, clothing and cosmetics.

I urge you to support S.B. No. 837 and its proposed restrictions on PFAS chemicals.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

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Pollinator Pathway NE